



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director

May 26, 2004

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Area Directors  
From: Mike Moseley  
Subject: Diversion of MR/MI consumers from State Psychiatric Hospitals

Senate Bill 859, the Thomas S. diversion law, requires that any consumer with a diagnosis of mental retardation and a co-occurring mental illness be admitted to a state psychiatric hospital only as a last resort and only when the individual meets specific criteria with regards to extreme dangerousness to others or medical fragility or deafness. The law requires the Division Director, or his designee, to approve such admissions. For several years Division staff and contractors have served as this designee and have performed a review process designed to reduce admissions of dually diagnosed consumers to our state psychiatric facilities.

Under system reform, the responsibility for access, triage and referral for all consumers is vested with the LMEs. It is appropriate that the responsibility for granting approval of admissions of consumers with MR/MI under SB 859 be delegated to the LME as well. Therefore, effective July 1, 2004, this responsibility is delegated to each LME and the Division will no longer operate the diversion process for MR/MI consumers. The contract with Behavioral Health Link will end June 30 and Division staff will no longer be available after hours by pager.

In order to ensure continued compliance with the requirements of SB 859 under this decentralized model, the Division will be offering training to LME staff designated to perform this function. Joanna Forester of the State Operated Services section has scheduled training events throughout the month of June to aid your staff in updating their skills on this subject. A listing of dates and locations is attached. We encourage you to ensure that staff to whom this responsibility will be assigned attend one of the training events.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Forester at 919-733-3654 or by email at [joanna.forester@ncmail.net](mailto:joanna.forester@ncmail.net).

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom  
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Patrice Roesler  
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Mike Mayer  
Dick Oliver  
Robin Huffman

Kaye Holder  
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## MR/MI Diversion from State Psychiatric Hospitals (SB859) Training

### DATE

### LOCATION

June 3 3:00 to 5:00	Western Highlands Mental Health Center
June 7 2:00 to 4:00	Wake Brown Building on the campus of Dorothea Dix Hospital
June 8 10:00 to 12:00	Mecklenburg at the Watkins Center
June 8 2:00 to 4:00	Burlington, Alamance-Caswell Human Services Building
June 10 9:30 to 11:30	Pitt Mental Health Center
June 10 2:00 to 4:00	Roanoke-Chowan Mental Health Center
June 14 1:00 to 3:00	Caldwell Library, Lenoir
June 23 10:00 – 12:00	Southeastern Mental Health Center

